

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 03523 030544Z
ACTION PC-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9590

UNCLAS DACCA 3523

FOR ACTION DEPUTY DIRECTOR KING FROM SCHNEIDER

E.O. 11652 : N/A
TAGS : EAID, BG
SUBJECT : PEACE CORPS NEGOTIATIONS

REF : DACCA 3522

1. YOU WILL SEE FROM REFTEL THAT WE HAVE APPARENTLY CROSSED THE HURDLES ON THE WAY TO A BASIC PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT. THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT COMES OUT A BIT LONGER THAN THE ORIGINAL BUT IT SEEMS TO US TO COVER ALL THE KEY POINTS. WE AWAIT PEACE CORPS AND DEPARTMENTAL CLEARANCES WHICH WE WOULD LIKE SOON SO WE CAN TELL BDG THE GREEN LIGHT IS ON.

2. WHEN I MET ON ANOTHER MATTER WITH PLANNING MINISTRY SECRETARY MUHITH ON MAY 23, HE SAID HE VERY MUCH HOPED THAT WE COULD ACCEPT THE LATEST BANGLADESHI PROPOSALS FOR A PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT. HE SAID THE PLANNING MINISTRY HAD MADE A "RAID" ON THE NATIONAL BOARD OF REVENUE (NBR) AND THOUGHT IT HAD COME AWAY WITH A VALUABLE PRIZE WHICH THEY THOUGHT SHOULD MAKE A RAPID AGREEMENT ON A PEACE CORPS PRESENCE HERE POSSIBLE. MUHITH AND JOINT SECRETARY MAJID HAVE DONE YEOMAN WORK IN "PERSUADING" NBR TO GO ALONG. MUHITH SAID AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI HAD TOLD HIM THE AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH YOU AND THAT YOU BOTH WANTED AN

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EARLY AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD ENABLE A PEACE CORPS TEAM TO VISIT BANGLADESH IN JUNE TO WORK ON PROGRAMMING.

3. I TOLD MUHITH THAT WE TOO WANTED AN EARLY AGREEMENT SO THAT WE COULD GET ON WITH A PEACE CORPS PROGRAM, AND WITH THIS IN MIND I HAD SENT YOU THEIR PROPOSALS FOR RESOLVING THE IMPASSE ON AN AGREEMENT.

4. I HOPE THAT THE LATEST PROPOSALS DO INDEED MAKE AN EARLY AGREEMENT POSSIBLE. WE WOULD BE MOST PLEASED WITH A VISIT BY JACK ANDREWS JUST AS SOON AS AN AGREEMENT IS SIGNED. THE WEATHER OUT HERE WON'T BE THE BEST AND IT MAY INHIBIT TRAVEL SOMEWHAT, BUT I HAVE NEVER KNOW THIS TO DETER THE PEACE CORPS. THERE IS MUCH WHICH THE PC CAN DO IN BANGLADESH AND I HOPE WE ARE REACHING A POINT AT WHICH WE CAN BEGIN. WARM REGARDS.

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